Automating document delivery: A case study

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Why automate?

Document Delivery: an artifact of the paper-based world

Paper will remain: legacy collections

Problem: Heavily manual; therefore expensive

Solution: Design system that minimizes

operator tasks



Typical document delivery operations

Library receives request: by mail, fax, email, request routing system (e.g., DOCLINE)

Requests are sorted

Staff take requests to stacks, pull paper documents

Staff: photocopy, staple, QC, put in envelope, mail

fax

Ariel

Staff then update request routing system, maintain records

Guiding philosophy for WILL

(Workstation for InterLibrary Loan)

Separate document delivery functions into those that can be automated and those that cannot

Only manual functions should be retrieving documents and scanning

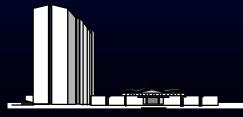
All other functions should be automated

Special administrative arrangements for different delivery modes should be eliminated



WILL: What is it?

A self-contained integrated machine that eliminates all manual document delivery activities --EXCEPT for document scanning



What WILL does: It

Calls up DOCLINE and retrieves ILL and Loansome Doc requests

Prints request and a barcode

Informs the operator of which documents to go get from the shelves

Correlates request with document (through barcode)

Processes the request to determine the required delivery mode and destination information

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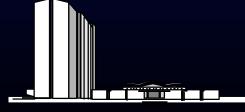
Lets the operator scan

Converts the image files to formats required for fax, print, Internet

Channels the images appropriately to sending modules

Sends images to Ariel, DocView, fax machine or local printer

Updates DOCLINE status



WILL hardware consists of

Pentium PC:

12 MB RAM, 1.2 GB hard disk, keyboard, mouse

High resolution Cornerstone monitor

Fujitsu 3096E+ scanner

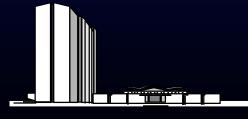
Kofax image processing boards (2) [printer, scanner]

Intel SatisFAXtion board [fax]

Ethernet board [Internet]

Laser printer

Barcode scanner



WILL software consists of

Microsoft Windows

Kofax Image Processing Platform (KIPP)

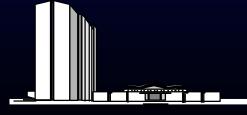
Developer's Toolkit

Intel CASMGR faxing software

Frontier Technologies communications software

Strandware Print Barcode Library

Inhouse modules developed in C language



Role of the Front End Processor

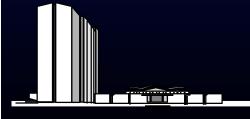
FEP acts as a request server, querying DOCLINE for ILL and Loansome Doc requests

FEP stores each request in system

Printer prints request and a unique barcode

FEP also places all document and requester data from the request in a database

After operation is done, FEP updates DOCLINE

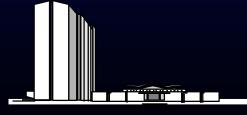


What does the operator do?

The operator:

Gets the documents from the shelves

Scans the barcode on the printed request (that accompanies the document from the shelves); WILL "knows" that the request corresponds to a particular document



What is to be evaluated?

Performance

How fast is each delivery mode?

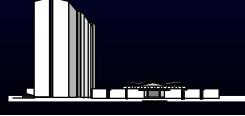
How good is the image quality?

What combination of delivery modes is optimal?

How legible and usable is the user interface?

Cost

Compare against current operation

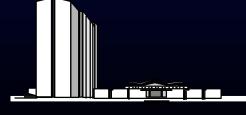


Custom features for the NIH Library

Batch print: sort requests by floor, delivery type, journal title

Independent DOCLINE update: set status as "filled" for DOCLINE update of requests not delivered by WILL

WILL Administrator : display status of all requests



Modifications to WILL during beta test

FEP: to be compatible with DOCLINE enhancements

Batch print: to be compatible with changes in journal location

Divide FEP into DOCLINE download and DOCLINE upload: run each function independently

Future issues

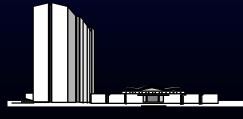
Input devices that improve performance

Faster scanners

OCR

Handheld PDA

Workflow for multiple WILLS



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